IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) An optical information recording medium, comprising:

data overlapping a visible second information on a first information to form a sequence of pits,

the second information being expressed in a predetermined area in a radial direction and an angular direction on the optical information recording medium, and the second information being expressed according to a change of a pit width, a change of a pit length, or a change of width within only a portion of the length of the pit.

23. (Previously Presented) The medium according to Claim 22, wherein the pit length varies in accordance with the second information on the basis of the first information.

24. (Previously Presented) The medium according to Claim 22, wherein the second information is expressed by a positional information of a polar coordinate with respect to the optical information recording medium.

25. (Previously Presented) The medium according to Claim 22, wherein the pit change based on the second information varies gradually according to a time axis.

26. (Previously Presented) The medium according to Claim 25, wherein a transition area of the pit change based on the second information ranges from 0.1 mm to 1 mm.

27. (Currently Amended) An optical information recording medium, comprising:

data overlapping a visible second information on a first information to form a sequence of pits,

the second information being expressed in a predetermined area in a radial direction and an angular direction on the optical information recording medium, the second information being expressed according to a change of a pit width, a change of a pit length, or a change of width within only a portion of the length of the pit,

a plurality of pits being formed so that the first information is expressed, and the second information is expressed by a pit having a pit width selected from predetermined plural widths, and

a watermark pattern or visible image of the second information being expressed on the optical information recording medium as [[the]] an information signal is reproduced.

28. (Previously Presented) The medium according to Claim 27, wherein the pit length varies in accordance with the second information on the basis of the first information.

29. (Previously Presented) The medium according to Claim 27, wherein the second information is expressed by a positional information of a polar coordinate with respect to the optical information recording medium.

30. (Previously Presented) The medium according to Claim 27, wherein the pit change based on the second information varies gradually according to a time axis.

31. (Previously Presented) The medium according to Claim 30, wherein a transition area of the pit change based on the second information ranges from 0.1 mm to 1 mm.

32. (Previously Presented) A method of duplicating a master optical information recording medium, the method comprising steps of:

recording data overlapping a visible second information on a first information on the master optical information recording medium by intermittently irradiating a laser beam to form a sequence of pits;

recording the second information in a predetermined area in a radial direction and an angular direction on the master optical information recording medium, wherein the second information is recorded according to a change of a pit width based on a change of power of the laser beam, a change of a pit length based on an on/off control of the laser beam, or a change of width within only a portion of the length of the pit based on a change in the vicinity of the on/off control of the laser beam; and

utilizing the master optical information recording medium in a duplication device to duplicate a recorded content of the master optical information recording medium on a second optical information recording medium.

33. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 32, wherein the duplication device includes a stamper configured to impress the recorded content of the master optical information recording medium into the second optical information recording medium.

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 32, wherein in the case where a regenerative signal obtained from the master optical information recording medium is binary-coded at a predetermined slice level so as to generate a binary-coded signal, an irradiation timing of the laser beam is corrected so that the binary-coded signal is variable on the basis of a predetermined basic period, and the pit length is varied in accordance with the second information on the basis of the first information.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 32, wherein the second information is expressed by a positional information of a polar coordinate with respect to the master optical information recording medium.

36. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 32, wherein [[a]] the power of the laser beam is modulated to be variable in accordance with the second information according to a time axis.

37. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 34, wherein the irradiation timing of the laser beam is corrected according to [[a]] correction data stored in [[a]] correction data storing means.

38. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 34, wherein [[a]] the power of the laser beam is controlled so that the pit change based on the second information is gradually carried out according to a time axis.

39. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 38, wherein a transition area of the pit change based on the second information ranges from 0.1 mm to 1 mm.

40. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for duplicating an optical information recording medium, which records data overlapping a visible second information on a first information on a master optical information recording medium by intermittently irradiating a laser beam to form a sequence of pits, the apparatus comprising:

means for generating a positional information so that the second information is recorded in a predetermined area in a radial direction and an angular direction on the master optical information recording medium;

means for modulating a laser beam power so that the second information is recorded according to a change of a pit width based on a change of power of the laser beam, a change of a pit length based on an on/off control of the laser beam, or a change of width within only a portion of the length of the pit based on a change in the vicinity of the on/off control of the laser beam; and

means for duplicating a recorded content of the master optical information recording medium on a second optical information recording medium.

41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein the means for duplicating includes a stamper configured to impress the recorded content of the master optical information recording medium data into the second optical information recording medium.

42. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein in the case where a regenerative signal obtained from the master optical information recording medium is binary-coded at a predetermined slice level so as to generate a binary-coded signal, an irradiation timing of the laser beam is corrected so that the binary-coded signal is variable on the basis of a predetermined basic period, and the pit length is varied in accordance with the second information on the basis of the first information.

43. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein the second information is expressed by a positional information of a polar coordinate with respect to the master optical information recording medium.

44. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 40, wherein [[a]] the power of the laser beam is modulated to be variable in accordance with the second information according to a time axis.

45. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 42, wherein the irradiation timing of the laser beam is corrected according to [[a]] correction data stored in [[a]] correction data storing means.

46. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to Claim 42, wherein [[a]] the power of the laser beam is controlled so that the pit change based on the second information is gradually carried out according to a time axis.

47. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 46, wherein a transition area of the pit change based on the second information ranges from 0.1 mm to 1 mm.

48-51. (Cancelled)